

European lands to America had greatly increased. Under pressure of its flood-tide, extraordinary religious and educational activity developed. If the growth and movement of population at this time represent "the most important migration of modern history," the increase in efficiency of Christian agencies and influences and the installation of educational forces to meet the problems raised by the unparalleled invasion are no less significant. As the incoming people together with many already in America moved westward, the Christian culture of the land followed them and planted the new soil with church and school. In its own way, the political agitation, preceeding the Civil War, strengthened the national spirit, which in turn charged all national institutions with greater vigor. In the wake of feverish industrial activity and political unrest followed business prostration. Hard times led men to think and to pray. They made way for the Fulton Street Prayer Meeting in New York and similar means of blessing in all the cities and villages of the land. Gracious pentecostal experiences swept from the more populous communities over vast tracts of the country. The revival stimulated the progress of the Evangelical Alliance of Protestant denominations, aided the widespread establishment of the Young Men's Christian Association, as well as many other beneficent enterprises and proved a timely training of American Christianity for service on an extensive scale.

No Christian communion could remain unaffected by these movements and influences. The Moravian Church was peculiarly susceptible to them. During the time of agitation for constitutional changes of this body, some of its members had engaged in lively discussions on mode of government, forms of ritual and methods of work with respect to their bearing on the probable future of Moravianism in America. Some doubtful spirits questioned whether the Church had any future in this country. When, by the synodal enactments of 1857, the American Provinces emerged into practical independence, without destroying organic unity with the European Provinces, the discussions were given a very practical turn. The several parties to them found themselves before the important problems of an expanding field of labor full of promise, for there was a marked revival of home missionary activity, prosecuted during these years with fresh vigor. At this critical juncture the Church was open and responsive to the gracious influences of the reviving spiritual life of the nation. In all parts of the country this was rousing Christians to the noblest enterprises of evangelization. Everywhere the chief topics of practical religion, faith and duty were engaging attention. All Christian